

11 August 1965

NRO review(s) completed.

AGREEMENT FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE  
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

A. The National Reconnaissance Program

1. The NRP is a single program, national in character, to meet the intelligence needs of the Government under a strong national leadership, for the development, management, control and operation of all projects, both current and long range for the collection of intelligence and of mapping and geodetic information obtained through overflights (excluding peripheral reconnaissance operations). The potentialities of U. S. technology and all operational resources and facilities must be aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop and operate systems for the collection of intelligence which are fully responsive to the Government's intelligence needs and objectives.

2. The National Reconnaissance Program shall be responsive directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board. Targeting requirements and priorities and desired frequency of coverage of both satellite and manned aircraft missions over denied areas shall continue to be the responsibility of USIB, subject to the operational approval of the 303 Committee.

B. The Secretary of Defense will:

1. Establish the NRO as a separate agency of the DoD and will have the ultimate responsibility for the management and operation of the NRO and the NRP;

2. Choose a Director of the NRO who will report to him and be responsive to his instructions;

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3. Concur in the choice of the Deputy Director of the NRO who will report to the DNRO and be responsive to his instructions;
4. Review and have the final power to approve the NRP budget;
5. Sit with members of the Executive Committee, when necessary, to reach decisions on issues on which committee agreement could not be reached.

C. The Director of Central Intelligence will:

1. Establish the collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and the establishment of their frequency of coverage;
2. Review the results obtained by the NRP and recommend, if appropriate, steps for improving such results;
3. Sit as a member of the Executive Committee;
4. Review and approve the NRP budget each year;
5. Provide security policy guidance to maintain a uniform system in the whole NRP area.

D. National Reconnaissance Program Executive Committee

1. An NRP Executive Committee, consisting of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, is hereby established to guide and participate in the formulation of the NRP through the DNRO. (The DNRO will sit with the Executive Committee but will not be a voting member.) If the Executive Committee can not agree on an issue the Secretary of Defense will be requested to sit with the Committee in discussing this issue and will arrive at a decision. The NRP Executive Committee will:

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a. Recommend to the Secretary of Defense an appropriate level of effort for the NRP in response to reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB and in the light of technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.

b. Approve or modify the consolidated National Reconnaissance Program and its budget.

c. Approve the allocation of responsibility and the corresponding funds for research and exploratory development for new systems. Funds shall be adequate to ensure that a vigorous research and exploratory development effort is achieved and maintained by the Department of Defense and CIA to design and construct new sensors to meet intelligence requirements aimed at the acquisition of intelligence data. This effort shall be carried out by both CIA and DoD.

d. Approve the allocation of development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs with a view to ensuring that the development, testing and production of new systems is accomplished with maximum efficiency by the component of the Government best equipped with facilities, experience and technical competence to undertake the assignment. It will also establish guidelines for collaboration between departments and for mutual support where appropriate. Assignment of responsibility for engineering development of sensor subsystems will be made to either the CIA or DoD components in accordance with the above criteria. The engineering development of all other subsystems, including spacecraft, reentry vehicles, boosters and booster interface subsystems shall in general be assigned to an Air Force component, recognizing, however, that sensors, spacecraft and reentry vehicles are integral components of a system, the development of which must proceed on a fully coordinated basis, with a view to ensuring optimum system development in support of intelligence requirements for overhead reconnaissance. To optimize the primary objective of systems development, design requirement of the sensors will be given priority in their integration within the spacecraft and reentry vehicles.

e. Assign operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions to CIA or DoD subject to the concurrence of the 303 Committee.

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f. Periodically review the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.

2. The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of either the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the Director of Central Intelligence. All meetings will be attended by the DNRO and such staff advisors as the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the Director of Central Intelligence consider desirable.

E. National Reconnaissance Office

1. To implement the NRP, the Secretary of Defense will establish the NRO as a separate operating agency of the DoD. It shall include the SOC which shall be jointly manned.

2. The Director of the NRO shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense. The Director NRO will:

a. Subject to direction and control of the Secretary of Defense and the guidance of the Executive Committee as set forth in Section D above, have the responsibility for managing the NRO and executing the NRP.

b. Subject to review by the Executive Committee, and the provisions of Section D above, have authority to initiate, approve, modify, redirect or terminate all research and development programs in the NRP. Ensure, through appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee for the assignment of research and development responsibilities and the allocation of funds, that the full potentialities of agencies of the Government concerned with reconnaissance are realized for the invention, improvement and development of reconnaissance systems to meet USIB requirements.

c. Have authority to require that he be kept fully and completely informed by all Agencies and Departments of the Government of all programs and activities undertaken as part of the NRP.

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d. Maintain and provide to the members of the Executive Committee records of the status of all projects, programs and activities of the NRP in the research, development, production and/or operational phases.

e. Prepare a comprehensive budget for all aspects of the National Reconnaissance Program.

f. Establish a fiscal control and accounting procedure to ensure that all funds expended in support of the National Reconnaissance Program are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized by the agencies concerned. In particular, the budget shall show separately those funds to be applied to research and exploratory design development, systems development, procurement, and operational activities. Funds expended or obligated under the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence under Public Law 110 shall be administered and accounted for by CIA and will be reported to DNRO in accordance with agreed upon procedures.

g. Sit with the USIB for the matters affecting the NRP.

3. The Deputy Director NRO shall be appointed by the DCI with the concurrence of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and shall serve full time in a line position directly under the Director NRO. The Deputy Director shall act for and exercise the powers of the Director, NRO during his absence or disability.

4. The NRO shall be jointly staffed in such a fashion as to reflect the best talent appropriately available from the CIA, the three military departments and other Government agencies. The NRO staff will report to the DNRO and DDNRO and will maintain no allegiance to the originating agency or Department.

F. Initial Allocation of Program Responsibilities

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1. Responsibility for existing programs of the NRP shall be allocated as indicated in Annex A attached hereto.

(signed)  
Cyrus Vance  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

(signed)  
W. F. Raborn  
Director of Central Intelligence

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ANNEX A

The following assignments for the development of new optical sensor subsystems are made to take full advantage of technical capability and experience of the agencies involved.

1. The CIA will develop the improvements in the CORONA general search optical sensor subsystems.

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The Director, NRO will, in managing the corresponding over-all systems developments, ensure that:

1. The management of and contracting for the sensors is arranged so that the design and engineering capabilities in the various contractors are most efficiently utilized.

2. The sensor packages and other subsystems are integrated in an over-all system engineering design for each system, with DMRD having responsibility for systems integration of each over-all system.

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

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Chief, ISB

DATE

12 October 1977

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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will be visiting him on 19 October. Bob asked me if I would like to meet with him at that time; I said yes. Harvey undoubtedly will bring up the question of auditing his activities. I'll say no change in the answer he has already been provided. However, the existence of this Branch I am sure will come up, and a discussion of its mission. This brings the question up of attempting to write the uniform Industrial Security Manual, which I believe is one of our major tasks. If this is discussed, the question of prerogatives will arise I am sure. Furthermore, Harvey will probably want to coordinate on anything affecting the world. I agree that he should. In this regard, you might want to review paragraph C5 in the attached memo. Please advise my what my prerogatives are.

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
ON  
MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

I. Management of the National Reconnaissance Program

A. To insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in the establishment, management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence hereby agree that the Secretary of Defense shall be the Executive Agent for the National Reconnaissance Program, which shall be developed, managed and conducted in accordance with policies and guidance jointly agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

B. To carry out his responsibilities as Executive Agent for the National Reconnaissance Program, the Secretary of Defense will establish as a separate operating agency of the Department of Defense a National Reconnaissance Office under the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense.

C. In the execution of their respective responsibilities the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence may designate appropriate officials of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to examine and monitor on their behalf the activities of the National Reconnaissance Office.

II. Organization and Command of the National Reconnaissance Office

The National Reconnaissance Office shall consist of:

A. A Director appointed from among the officers and employees of the Department of Defense by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence, who shall devote a major portion of his time to the business of the National Reconnaissance Office.

B. A Deputy Director appointed from among the officers and employees of the Central Intelligence Agency by the Director of Central

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Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense. The Deputy Director NRO shall be in the chain of command directly under the Director NRO and shall at all times be kept fully and currently informed as to all activities of the National Reconnaissance Program. Under the direction of the Director NRO he shall be responsible for:

1. Supervising relations between the NRO and the United States Intelligence Board and its subcommittees, and the intelligence exploitation community.
2. Supervising all NRP tasks assigned by the Director NRO to the Central Intelligence Agency.
3. Performing such other duties as may be assigned by the Director, NRO.

The Deputy Director shall act for, and exercise the powers of the Director, NRO, during his absence or disability.

C. Such personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, other components of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as shall be assigned on a full time basis to appropriate positions within the National Reconnaissance Office.

D. The chain of command shall run directly from the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent to the Director, NRO. Guidance to the Director, NRO, shall be furnished by the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent hereunder and by the United States Intelligence Board.

### III. Functions and Responsibilities of the National Reconnaissance Office

Subject to the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense, the National Reconnaissance Office, under the operational direction and control of its Director, is responsible for the management of all aspects of the NRP, including but not limited to:

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- A. Development on a continuing basis for the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence of a single National Reconnaissance Program of all projects for collection of intelligence, mapping and geodetic information through overflights over denied territory, by collection systems exclusive of normal peripheral operations. Maximum use will be made of appropriate technical and operational capabilities and resources of the Department of Defense, NSA and CIA to support all collection and processing projects.
- B. Responding directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board.
- C. Scheduling all missions for overflights in the National Reconnaissance Program, obtaining appropriate clearances where required from higher authority.
- D. All NRP flights over denied territory, employing appropriate capabilities, facilities and resources of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.
- E. Initial imagery processing, titling, production and delivery of the collected product to the users as specified by the USCIB.
- F. Decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected electronic signal data to yield a usable collection product, and delivery of such collection product in proper format together with associated data necessary for exploitation to the NSA or other user as specified by the USCIB.
- G. Engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating systems as well as to provide information for new systems.
- H. Planning and conduct of research and development of future NRP projects, utilizing appropriate resources and capabilities of the DoD, CIA and private contractors.

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I. Presentation, as required, of all aspects of the NRP to the Special Group and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

J. Maintenance of a uniform system of security procedures and control in accordance with security policy established for the NRP by the Director of Central Intelligence.

K. Preparation of budget requests for all NRO programs, and presentation and substantiation of such budget requests to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, the Bureau of the Budget and Congressional Committees. CIA will include in its budget presentation to the Bureau of the Budget and Congressional Committees the funds for those NRP tasks which are assigned to CIA and which are to be financed from NRO resources.

L. Direction and management of the application of, and administration of all funds made available for the National Reconnaissance Program. Funds expended or obligated under the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence under Public Law 110 will be administered and accounted for by CIA.

M. Rendition of status of funds reports and analyses.

N. Release of public information subject to the security guidance of CIA.

#### IV. Authorities

The Director, National Reconnaissance Office, in connection with his assigned responsibilities for the National Reconnaissance Program, shall be authorized to:

A. Organize, staff and supervise the National Reconnaissance Office.

B. Establish, manage and conduct the National Reconnaissance Program.

C. Assign all project tasks such as technical management, contracting, etc., to appropriate elements of the DoD and the CIA, changing such assignments, and taking any such steps he may determine necessary to the efficient management of the NRP.

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D. Issue appropriate instructions and procedures implementing this agreement.

## V. Relationships

A. In carrying out his responsibilities for the National Reconnaissance Program, the Director, National Reconnaissance Office shall:

1. Report directly to the Secretary of Defense and shall keep him and the Director of Central Intelligence currently informed on the NRO and the NRP. In addition he shall keep such officials of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence may respectively designate under the provisions of paragraph I. C. to examine and monitor the National Reconnaissance Program on their behalf, personally informed on a regular basis, or on request, on the status of projects of the National Reconnaissance Program.

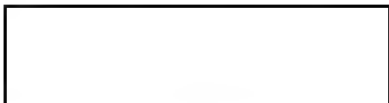
2. Establish appropriate liaison between the National Reconnaissance Office and the United States Intelligence Board, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency.

3. Where appropriate make use of qualified personnel of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as full-time members of the National Reconnaissance Office.

4. Make maximum utilization of appropriate technical and operational capabilities and resources of the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency to support all collection and processing programs including but not limited to, electronic signal and imagery programs.

B. Officials of all elements of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency shall provide support within their respective authorities to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, as may be necessary for the Director to carry out his assigned responsibilities and functions. Streamlined management procedures shall be utilized whereby individual project directors will report directly to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The Director, National Reconnaissance Office, shall be given support as required from normal staff elements of the

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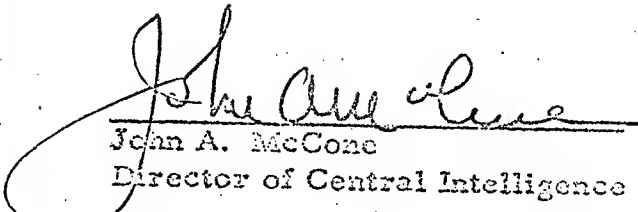
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military departments and agencies of the Department of Defense and of the Central Intelligence Agency concerned, although these staff elements will not participate in those project matters except as he specifically requests, and these projects will not be subject to normal Department of Defense or Central Intelligence Agency Staff review.

VI. Effective Date

This agreement is effective upon signature and supersedes the DoD-CIA NRO Agreement dated 2 May 1962.

13 March 1963

  
Jean A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence

  
Roswell Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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